

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above-identified patent application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Action dated March 28, 2006. Claims 1, 2, 23 and 24 have been amended. All pending Claims 1-26 have been rejected as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-366963 to Kimimoto et al. ("Kimimoto").

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the difference between the present invention and Kimimoto. Claim 1 now includes the following steps:

storing reception information representing a work request received from a client in a memory device of the computer system;

extracting work items, which have not been accepted by the worker, from the reception information and sending the extracted work items from the computer system to a worker terminal used by the worker;

receiving acceptance information, which corresponds to work items selected by the worker from the unaccepted work items and is sent from the worker terminal, by the computer system; and

storing information on the worker in the memory device based on the acceptance information.

Claim 1 now provides for worker receipt of unaccepted work items from the computer system (the management server 11), wherein a work item from the unaccepted work items may be selected. Upon selection, acceptance information corresponding to the selected work item is sent to the computer system. Thus in one embodiment of the present invention the worker can create a work schedule himself. Therefore, the claimed invention makes it unnecessary for a work manager to create the worker's work schedule, thereby reducing the burden on the work manager at the management center. Additionally, it is unnecessary to post a work manager at the management center.

Conversely, Kimimoto discloses on site repair or maintenance of machines wherein a work manager at a management center creates a work schedule for the worker. In the case where a new work request is received from the client, the work manager assigns the new task to the proper worker and informs the worker of the task based on the work schedule having been prepared before the

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worker's departure. As disclosed in paragraph [0071] of Kimimoto, the work schedule is created through a screen 42 displayed at the management center. The work schedule for the worker is then created by the work manager at the management center. That is, Kimimoto does not disclose the claimed subject matter in which the work items, which have not been accepted by the worker, is sent from the computer system to the worker terminal, the worker selects the work items from the unaccepted work items, and acceptance information corresponding to the selected work items is sent from the worker terminal to the computer system.

Since it is believed that the claims presented herein are distinguished over Kimimoto, withdrawal of the rejection to Claim 1 is respectfully requested. In addition, independent claims 2, 23 and 24 have been amended in a manner similar to Claim 1 and thus are also believed patentable over Kimimoto. Claims 3-22 depend on Claim 2 and Claims 25-26 depend on allowable Claim 24. Hence, withdrawal of the rejection to these claims is respectfully requested as well.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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